

**Digital
Comic
Preservation**

**Another
pointless
scan by
Kritter**

**You got a friggin' Problem
with me?!?
Yeah, I didn't think so.**

**If you like it,
then buy it!
Don't make me
come looking
for you!**



BADGER™



WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



The Badger is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder, which has its origins in childhood trauma. Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred*, is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention obstruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle, or Lorne Greene. Only Badger gets better results than Lorne Greene.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

LAST ISSUE: Badger and his old buddy **Yeti**, the abominable snowman, had to battle Badger's psychopathic alter-ego, **Pierre**, and a hideous demon from another dimension sent by **IBOB** to destroy Yeti. All of which has absolutely nothing to with this issue. So what? So sue me! But first you'll have to get a lawyer...

Rick Obadiah, Publisher
Kathy Kotsivas, Operations Dir.
Kurt Goetzung, Sales Mgr.
Ralph Musicant, Finance Dir.

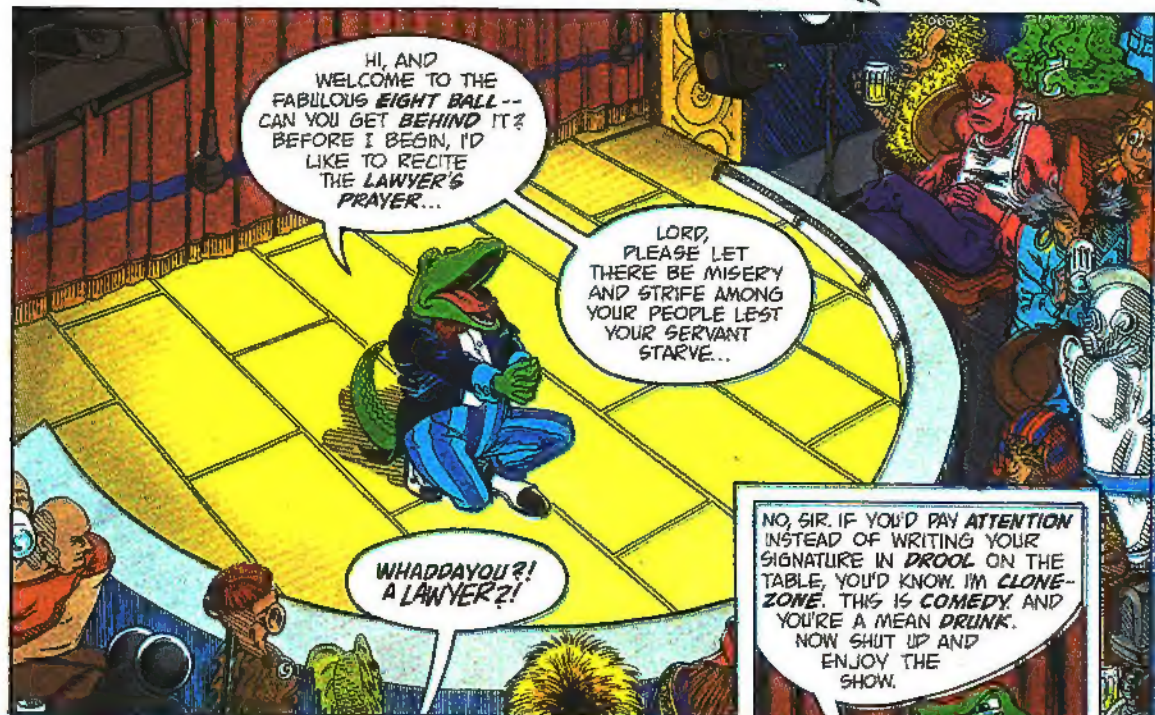
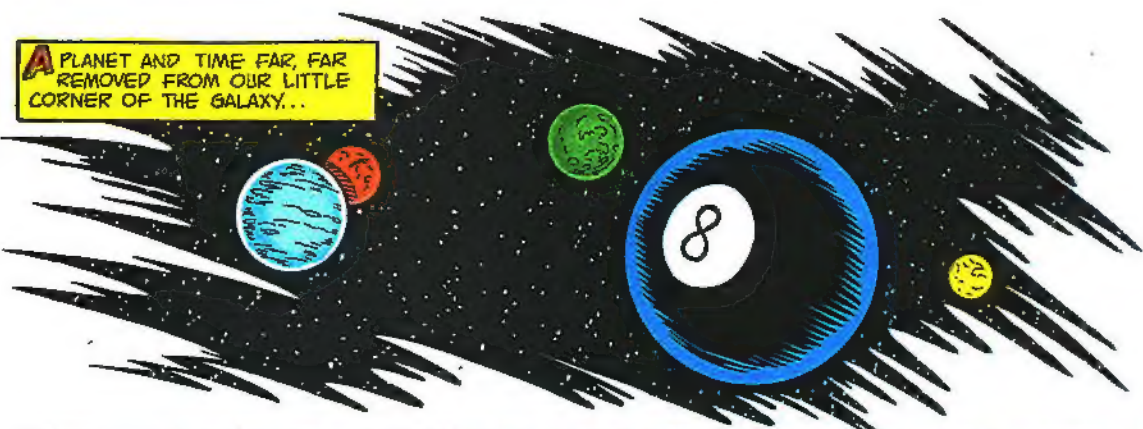
Rick Oliver, Editorial Director
Alex Wald, Art Director
Rich Markow, Ed. Coordinator
Rick Taylor, Production Mgr.

BADGER™ Vol. 1, No. 29, November 1987. Published by **FIRST COMICS, INC.**, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: \$1.75 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: \$21.00 in the U.S., \$23.00 in Canada, and \$40.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual person, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred. Isaac was right — the universe is a big pool table! The Badger, Clonezone and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changed to **Badger**, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION



A PLANET AND TIME FAR, FAR
REMOVED FROM OUR LITTLE
CORNER OF THE GALAXY...



HI, AND
WELCOME TO THE
FABULOUS **EIGHT BALL**--
CAN YOU GET **BEHIND** IT?
BEFORE I BEGIN, I'D
LIKE TO RECITE
THE **LAWYER'S**
PRAYER...

LORD,
PLEASE LET
THERE BE MISERY
AND STRIFE AMONG
YOUR PEOPLE LEST
YOUR SERVANT
STARVE...

WHADDAYOU?!
A **LAWYER**?!

NO, SIR. IF YOU'D PAY **ATTENTION**
INSTEAD OF WRITING YOUR
SIGNATURE IN **DROOL** ON THE
TABLE, YOU'D KNOW I'M **CLONE-**
ZONE. THIS IS **COMEDY**. AND
YOU'RE A MEAN **DRUNK**.
NOW SHUT UP AND
ENJOY THE
SHOW.



WHADDAYOU, A
LAWYER? MAKIN'
FUN OF
ME?!

NOT AT
ALL, SIR. NOT
AT ALL! I LIKE
EVERYTHING ABOUT
YOU! ESPECIALLY YOUR
COLOGNE-- EAU DE
PARMESAN. HOW ABOUT
A RUN THROUGH
THE CAR WASH?
I'LL TREAT.

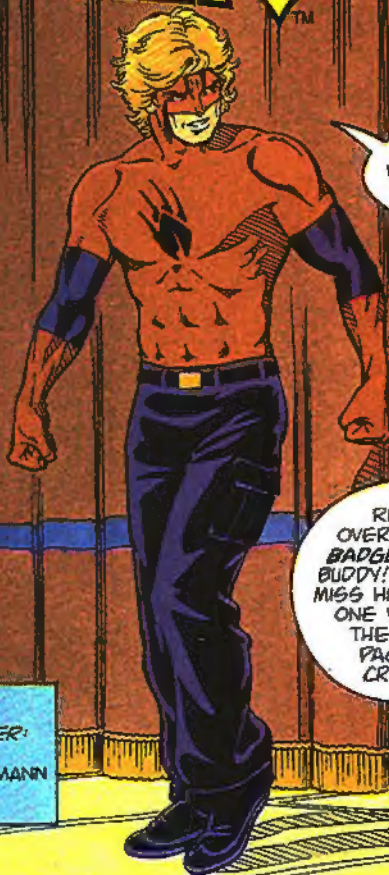




BADGER™

The

MAGIC WORD



OKAY,
WHERE IS THIS
LOUDMOUTH?



RIGHT
OVER THERE,
BADGER OLD
BUDDY! YOU CAN'T
MISS HIM. HE'S THE
ONE WEARING
THE PIANO
PACKING
CRATE.

WRITER: MIKE BARON
GUEST ARTIST/LETTERER:
ERIC SHANOWER
COLORIST: LINDA LESSMANN
EDITOR: RICK OLIVER



ARE YOU GIVING
THE ZONE A
HARD TIME?

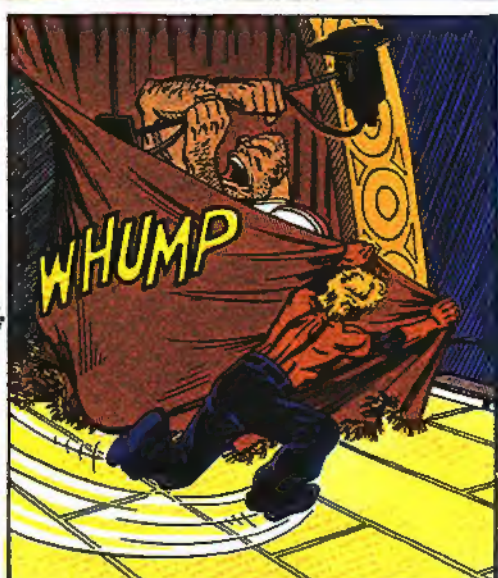
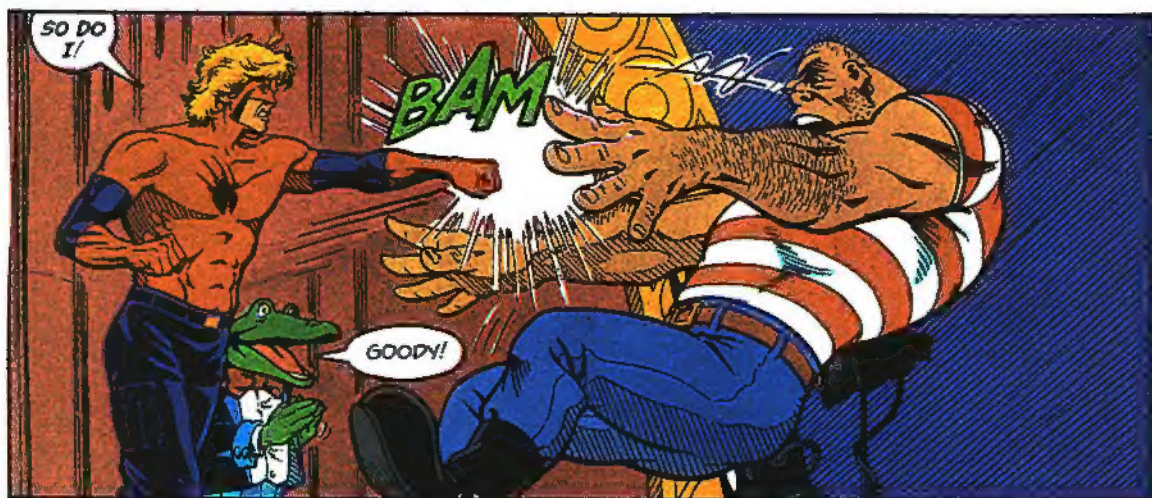
YEAH.
SO WHAT?
WHO ARE
YOU?

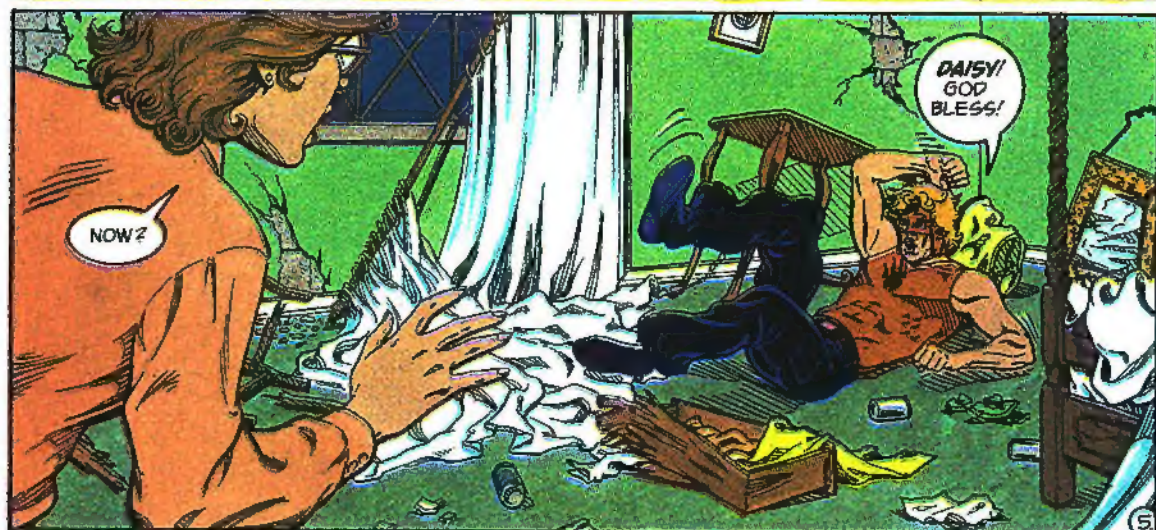


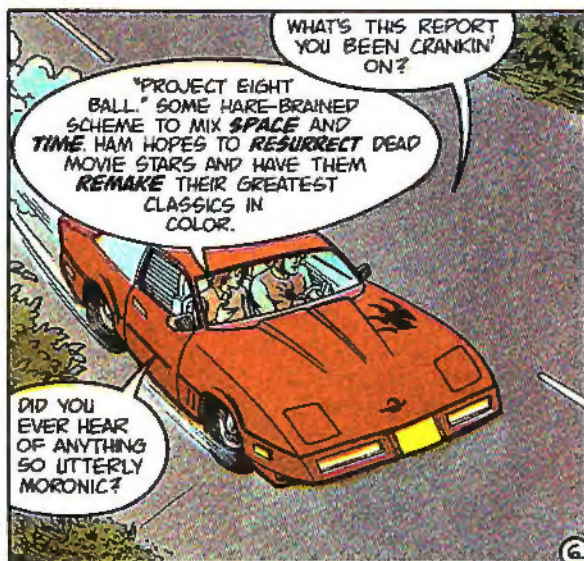
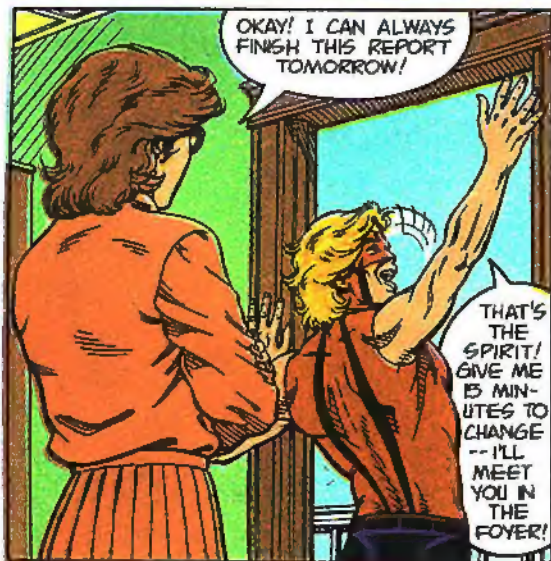
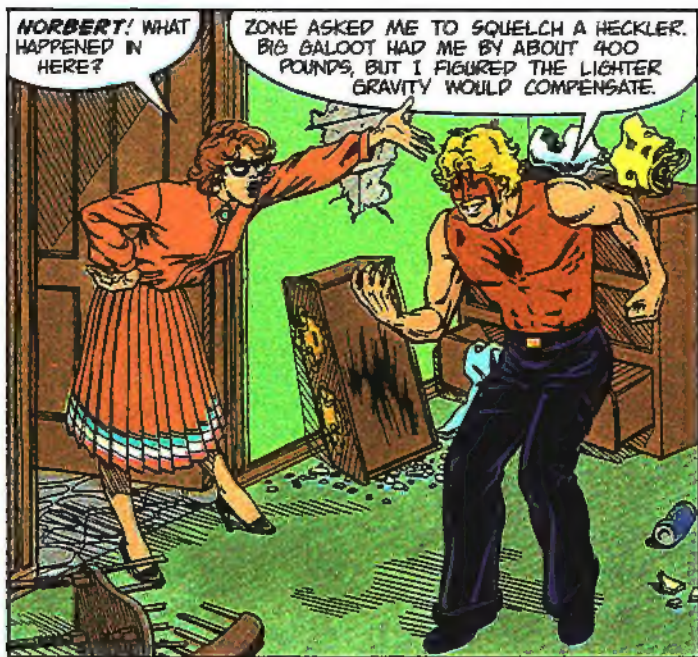
I'M HIS
LAWYER!

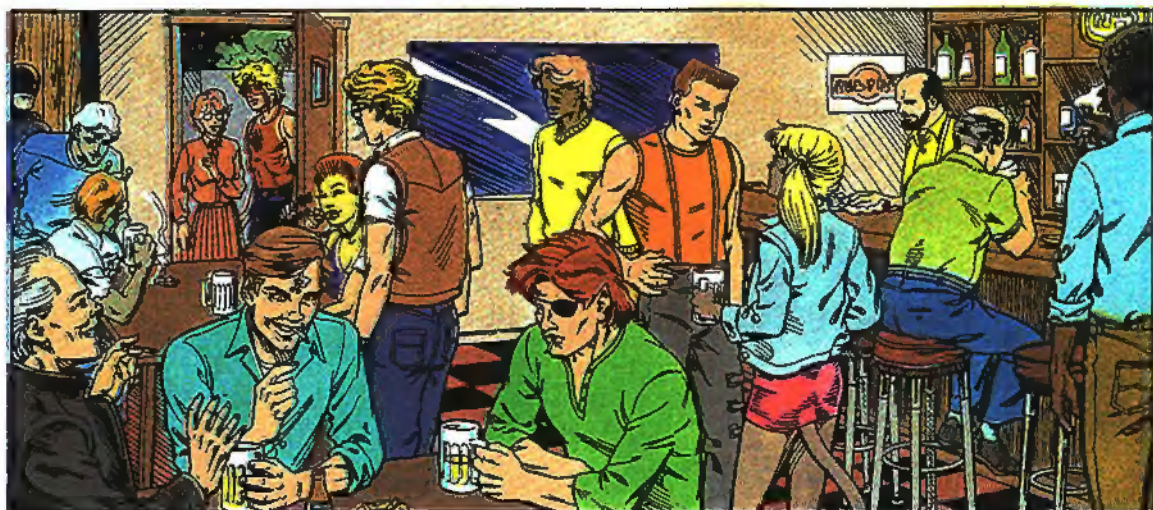
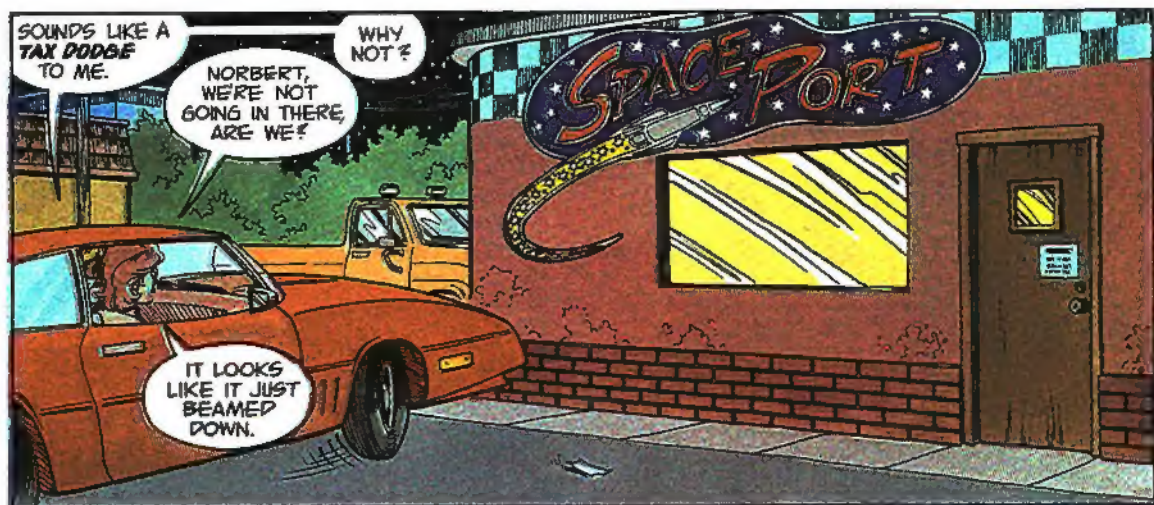


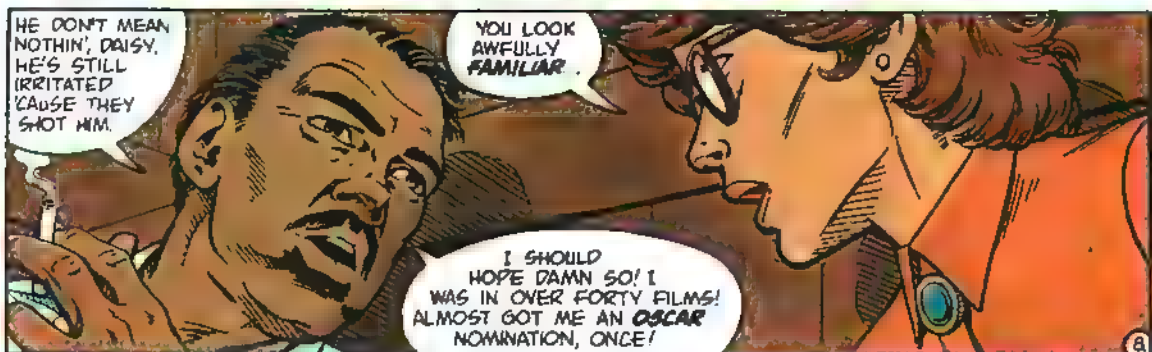
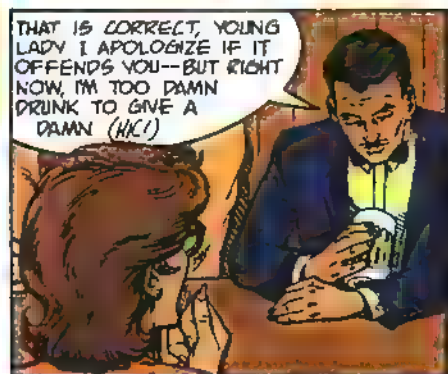
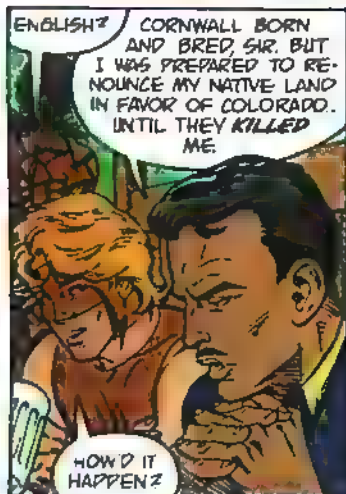
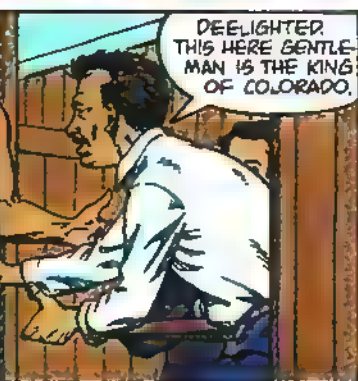
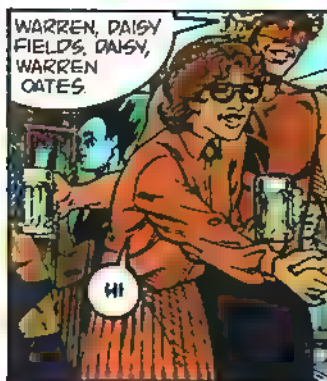
I **HATE**
LAWYERS!

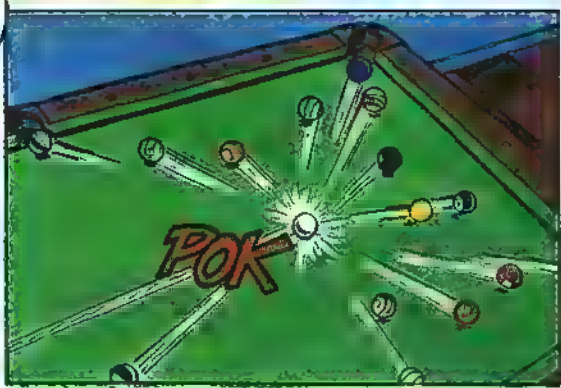
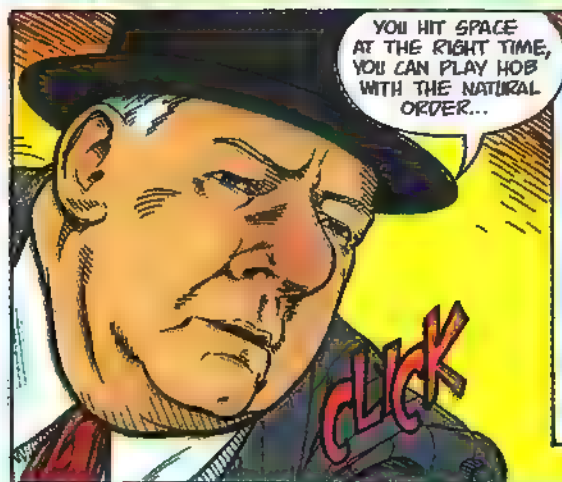
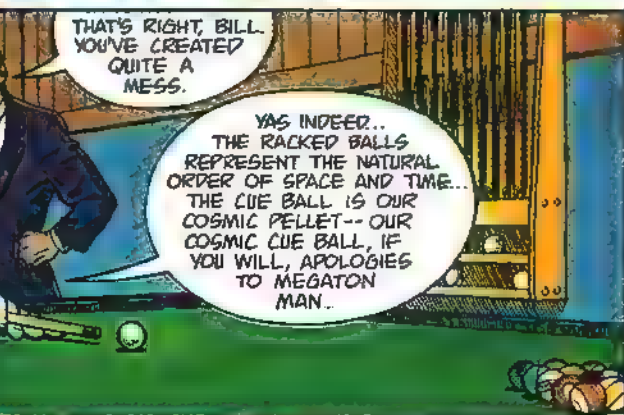


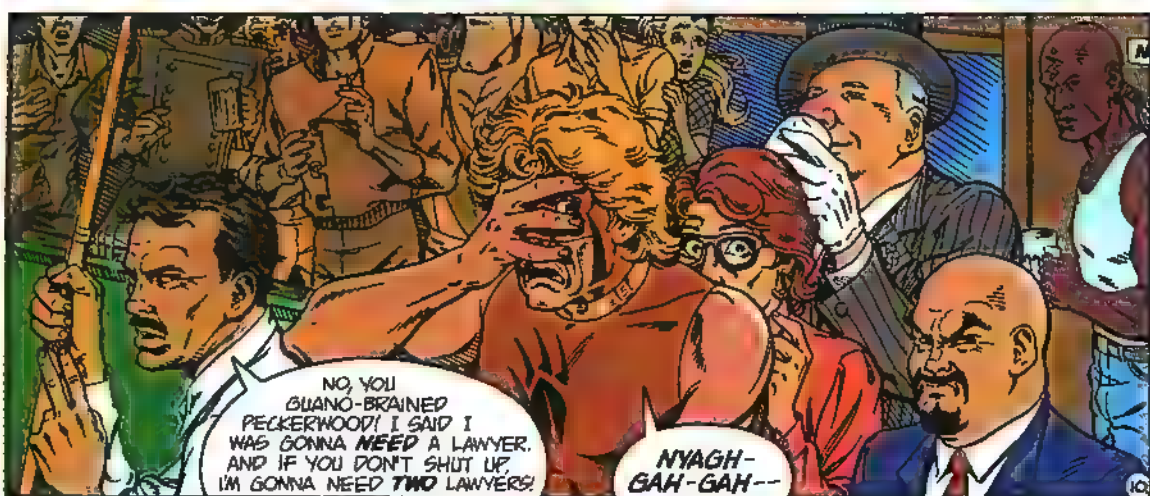
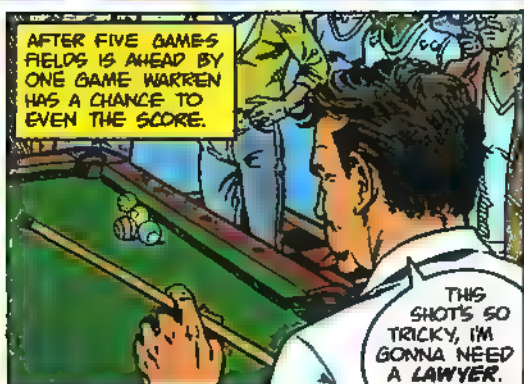














FIRST NOTES

Well, it's time to get out the hats and hooters, smash bottles of champagne over our heads, and generally make complete fools of ourselves. But hey, we're in the comics business, so we do that pretty much every day anyway.

Not that this is a foolish business, mind you. No, of course not. Comics are serious business. Yes, indeed.

So... what were we talking about anyway?

Oh, yes. Get out the festive crêpe paper and colorful party favors because it's time to celebrate **FIRST COMICS' FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!**

To celebrate this incredible but true event, we have festooned all our comics with a tremendously impressive fifth anniversary logo which makes each and every one a priceless collector's item, and we have fashioned tremendously exciting fifth anniversary pins, which I will be selling in the lobby for tremendously inflated prices. They eighty-sixed my concepts for laser hologram fifth anniversary centerfolds, battery-operated neon fifth anniversary coffee mugs, and liquid crystal fifth anniversary two-way wrist radios... but hey, what do they know, huh?

Anyway, as part of our gala fifth anniversary craze, this month we debut a brand new series: **Psychoblast!**

Actually, it has virtually nothing to do with our fifth anniversary hoopla; it's just an amazing coincidence. But it just happens to be a terrific new book, and if you don't want to take my word for it, then just pick up a copy of **First Six-Pack #2** for the amazingly low price of \$9.95! No, wait, that's not right. Let's see... 50¢! The amazingly low price of 50¢!

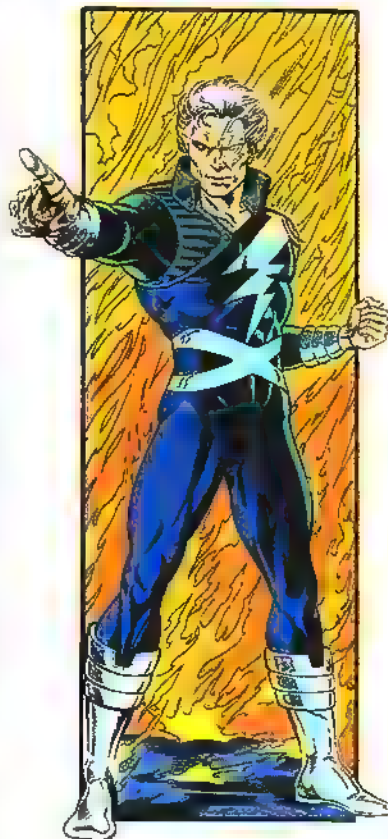
Wait, that can't be right either. Only 50¢? Yep, that's what it says. Well, it's too late to change it now, so I guess we'll just have to live with it. **First Six-Pack #2**, featuring: **Psychoblast #1**, **Dreadstar #33**, **Shatter #12**, **Jon Sable Freelance #54**, **American Flaggl #47**, and **Whisper #10**. All for only 50¢!

Still not impressed? Well, neither was I! So I demanded more, more, more! I mean, come on! This is our **FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!** Right? If we were married, this would be our wooden anniversary! Not that I'm proposing or anything, but that's not the point. What is the point? Hang on. Give me a minute. Oh, right — we should give each and every one of you something made out of wood! Something personal. Something meaningful. Something sentimental. Something incredibly cheap so we won't go bankrupt giving away two hundred thousand of them!

And did we come up with something? Did we? You bet we did! Now you can get the **First Edition** every month from your local retailer. It tells you what's coming up in the **First Comics** line. It's so cheap it's almost free. In fact, in many stores it is free! And it's paper, so it's made out of wood!

Still not impressed? This month's issue of **American Flaggl!** (#46) features a special retrospective of the first four years of **AFI** and a preview of things to come, including a look at the special four-part **AFI** extravaganza by **Howard Chaykin**, **Paul Smith**, and **Mike Vosburg**. It starts next month in issue #47 and culminates in a spectacular 50th anniversary issue!

Still not impressed? Tough luck! Because that's pretty much the proverbial "it." Except of course for



FIRST IN JULY

American Flaggl! #46. Special apology issue! A retrospective of the first four years of **AFI**, and a preview of things to come! Find out what writer/creator **Howard Chaykin**, and artists **Paul Smith** and **Mike Vosburg** have in store for the next four issues, culminating with a special 50th anniversary issue. Cover by **Howard Chaykin**. Now a deluxe series.

Badger #29. Guest artist **Eric Shanower** joins writer **Mike Baron** to reveal "The Magic Word!" *"Fun. Grade: A."* **Don Thompson, CBG.**

Corum #6: Corum begins a treacherous

journey in search of the mystical City in the Pyramid on a quest to recruit allies against the evil hordes of Chaos. By **Mike Baron**, **Mike Mignola** and **Kelley Jones**. Bi-monthly series.

Dreadstar #33: On his first special task force assignment, Vanth tracks down a trio of sorcerer priests. But can Dreadstar withstand the psychic onslaught of... Willow? By **Jim Starlin**, **Luke McDonnell** and **Val Mayerik**. Bi-monthly series. *"Grade: A."* **Don Thompson, CBG.**

Dynamo Joe #13: The Alliance has trapped and contained the central command of the Melnarses. But when Pomru discovers the true origin of Wolf-1's incredible power, Dynamo Joe must face the unexpected threat of "A Wolf in the Fold." By **Phil Foglio**, **Ben Dunn** and **Brian Thomas**. *"This is an entertaining comic..."* **Don Thompson, CBG.**

Evangeline #4: Captured by terrorists in a nuclear wasteland, Evangeline must face the dangers of "Rads." By **Chuck Dixon**, **Judith Hunt** and **Ricardo Villagran**. Bi-monthly series.

Grimjack #40. Beginning a major new direction in the saga of John Gaunt! After a reunion with some old friends, Grimjack must vanquish an old enemy — the murderous man-machine, Kalibos! By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake**. *"Grade: A."* **Don Thompson, CBG.**

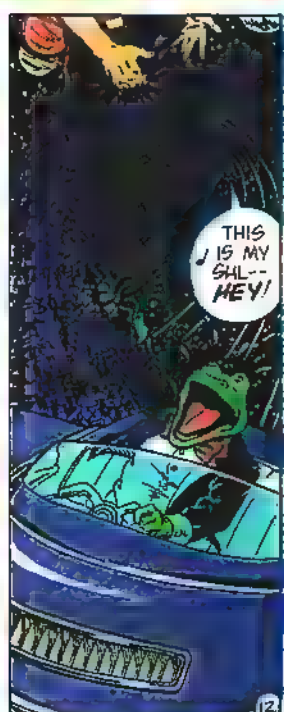
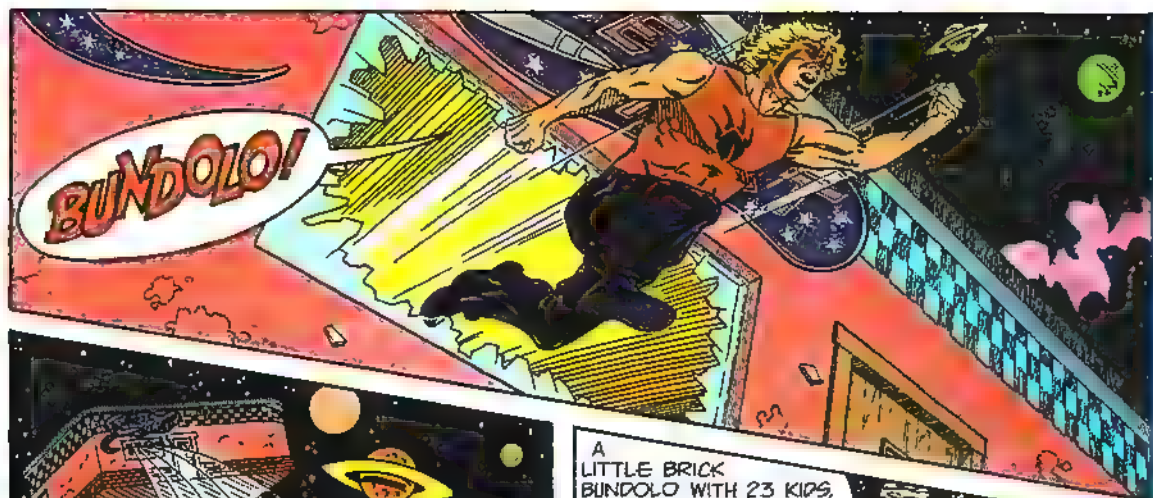
Hawkmoon #2: Hawkmoon is transported to a mystic plane via the magic of his crystal rings. By **Roger Salick** and **Raphael Kayanan**. Painted cover by **Dave Dorman**. Bi-monthly series.

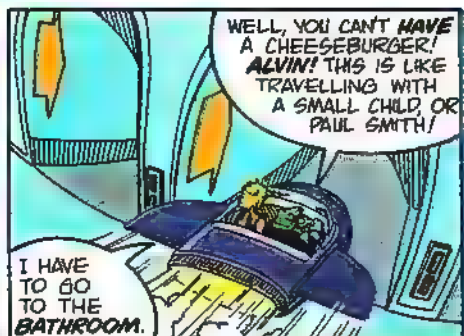
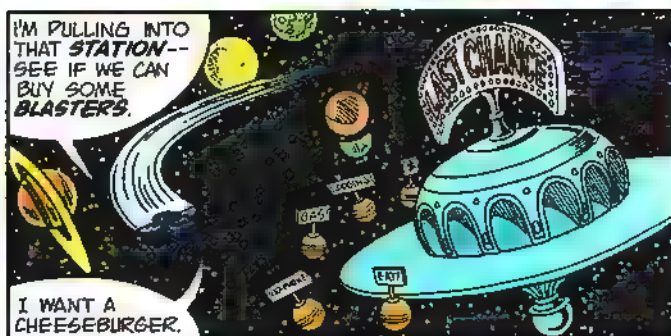
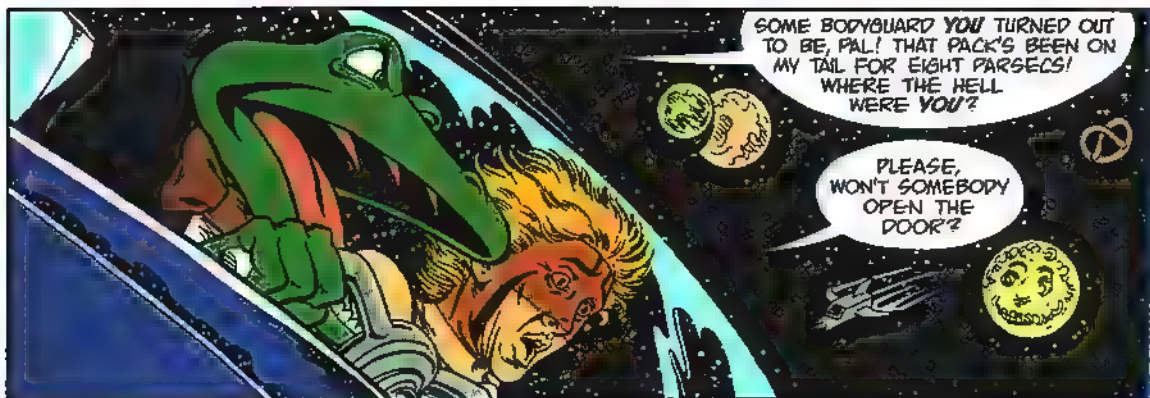
Jon Sable, Freelance #53: Who is the mysterious man from Myke Blackmon's past — and what does he want with Sable? By **Mike Grell** and **Gerald Forton**. "... excellent and believable adventure stories." *Grade: A plus.* **Don Thompson, CBG.**

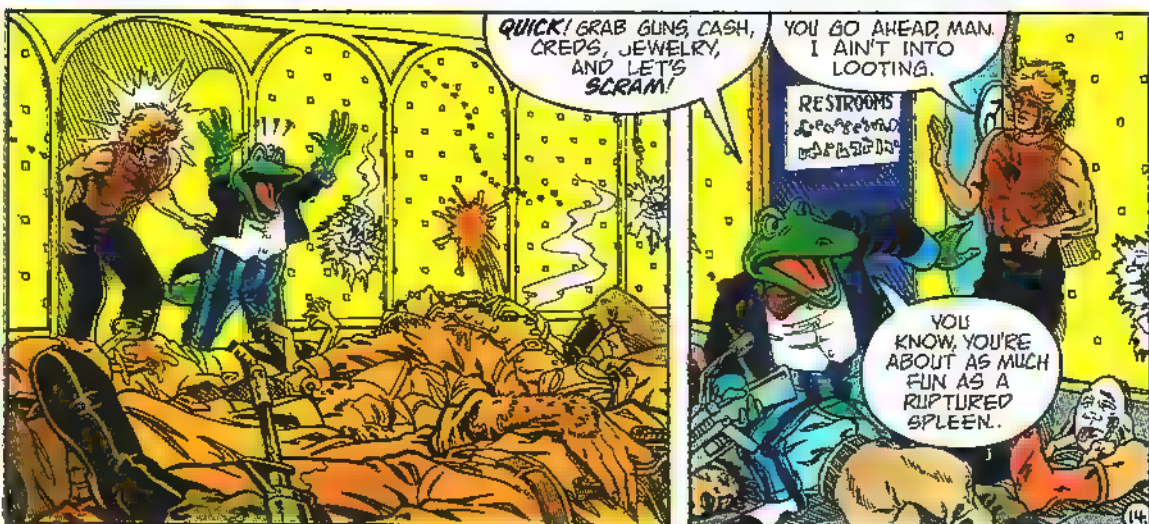
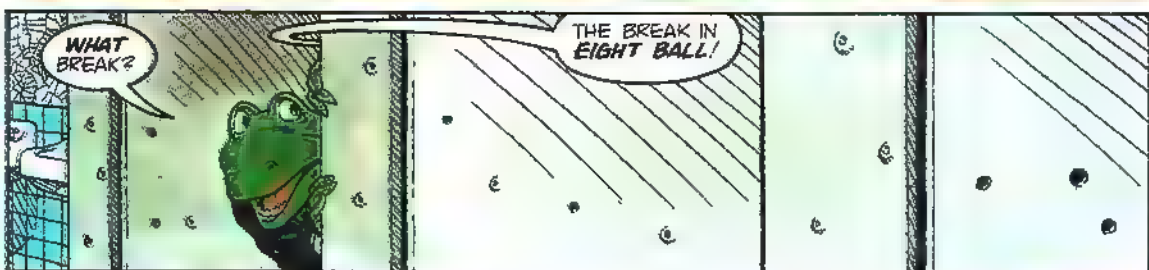
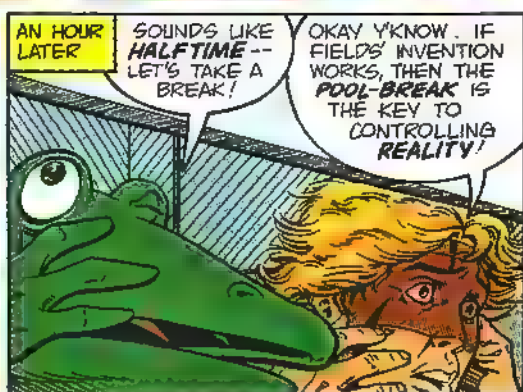
Lone Wolf and Cub #3: The Lone Wolf must kill a living Buddha to transcend "The Gateless Barrier." By **Kazuo Koike** and **Goseki Kojima**. Cover and introduction by **Frank Miller**. 64 pages. Perfect bound. Black-and-white.

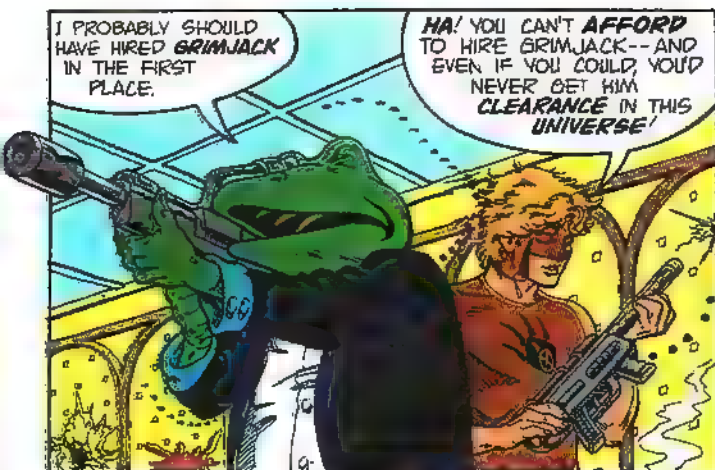
Nexus #38. The return of the dreaded slaver Clausius! By **Mike Baron** and special guest artist **Paul Smith**. *"Grade A plus."* **Don Thompson, CBG.**

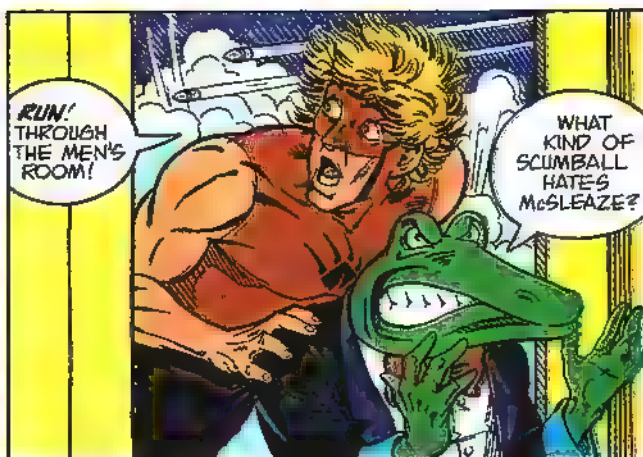
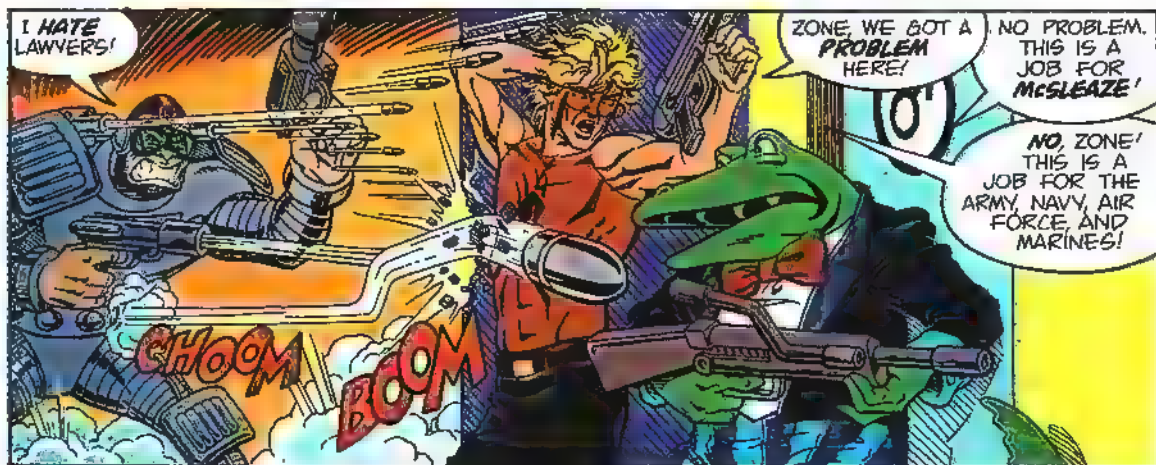
Psychoblast #1 First issue! New series! Who is Brian Burke? That's what he'd like to know. But his right brain and **Psychoblast** have other ideas! The debut of a different kind of superhero by **Steven Grant** and hot new artist **Robb Phipps**.

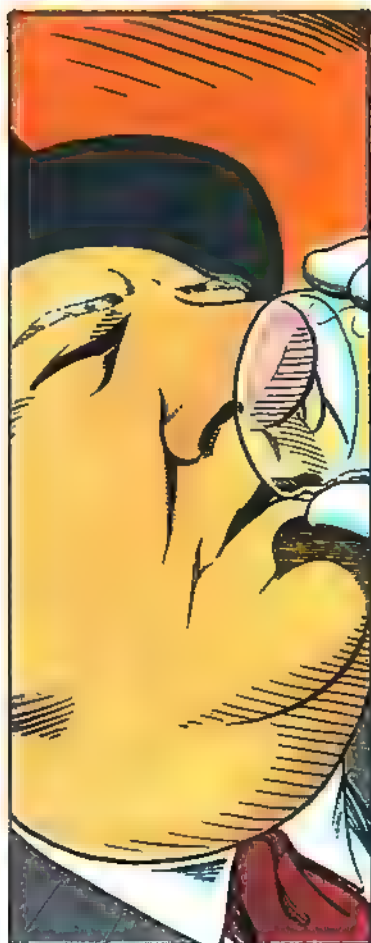
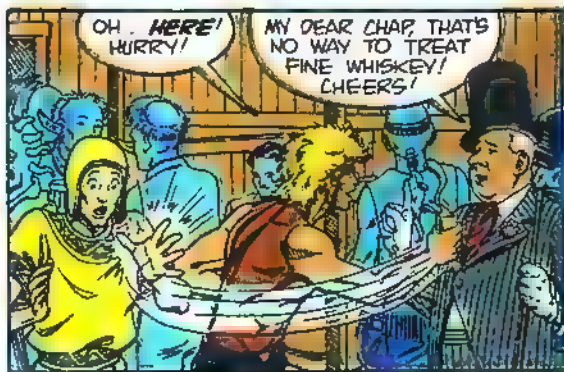
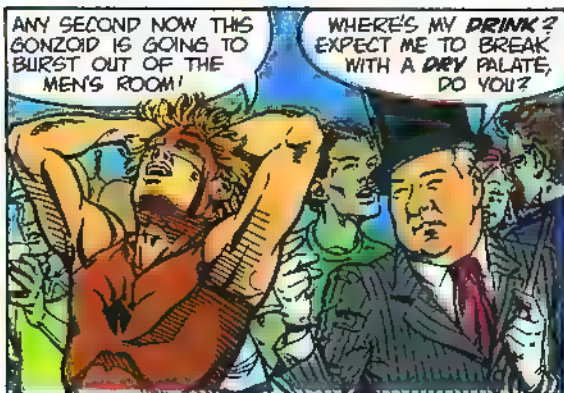


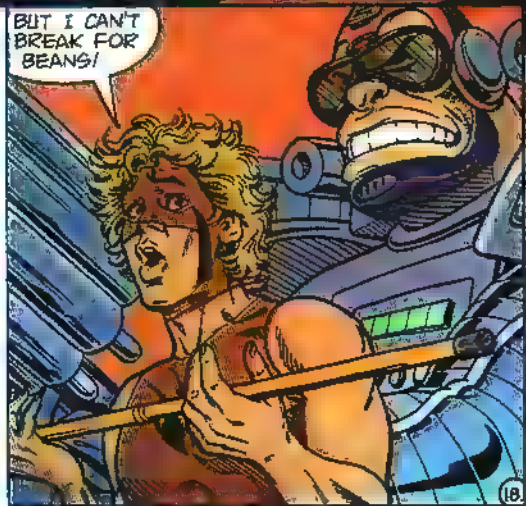


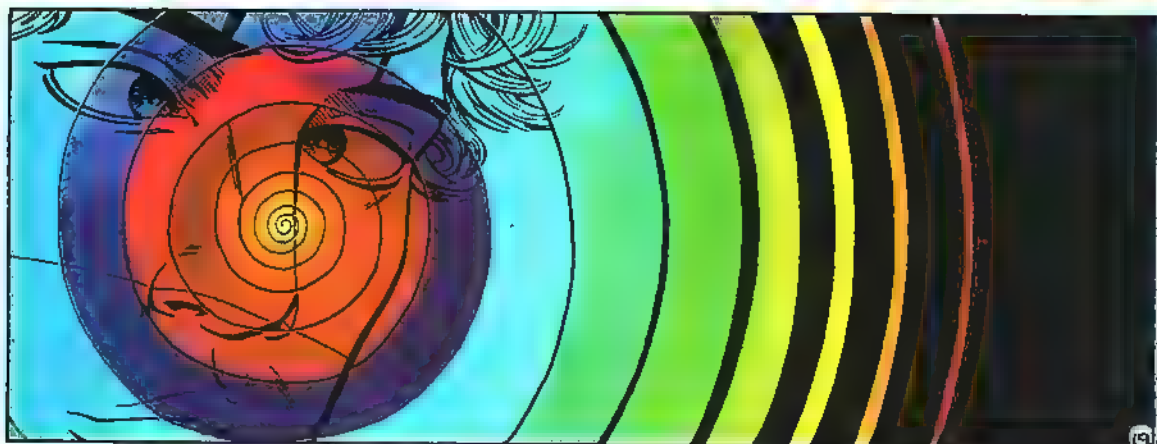
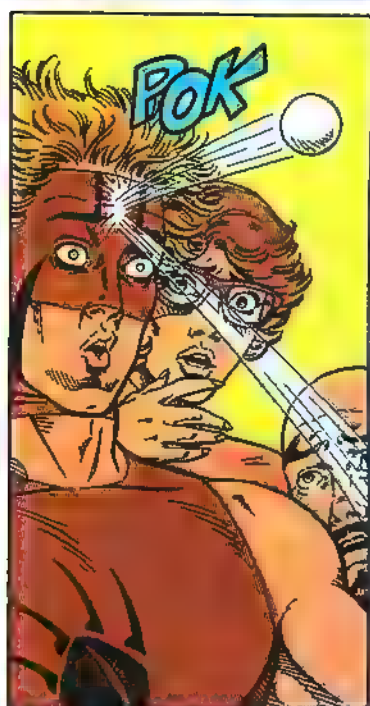
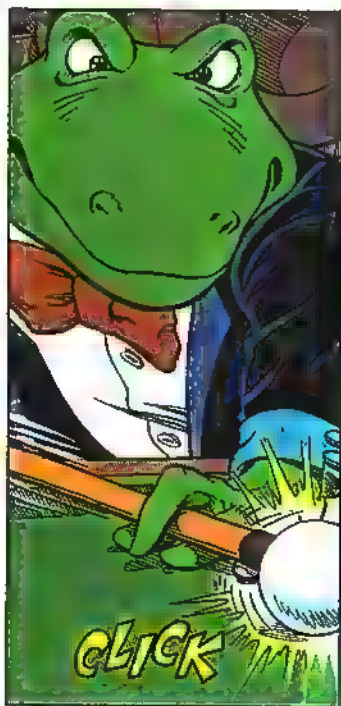
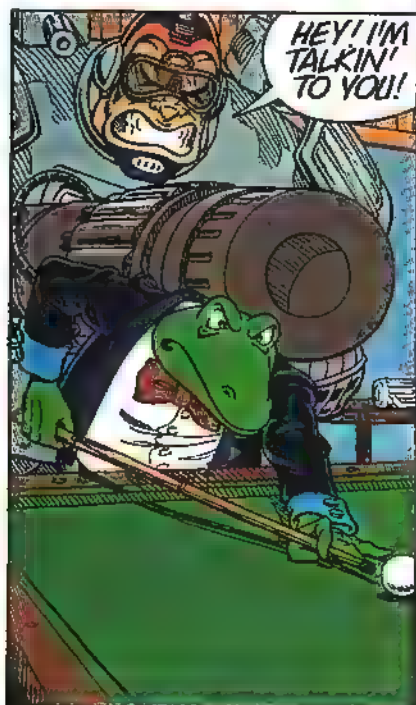
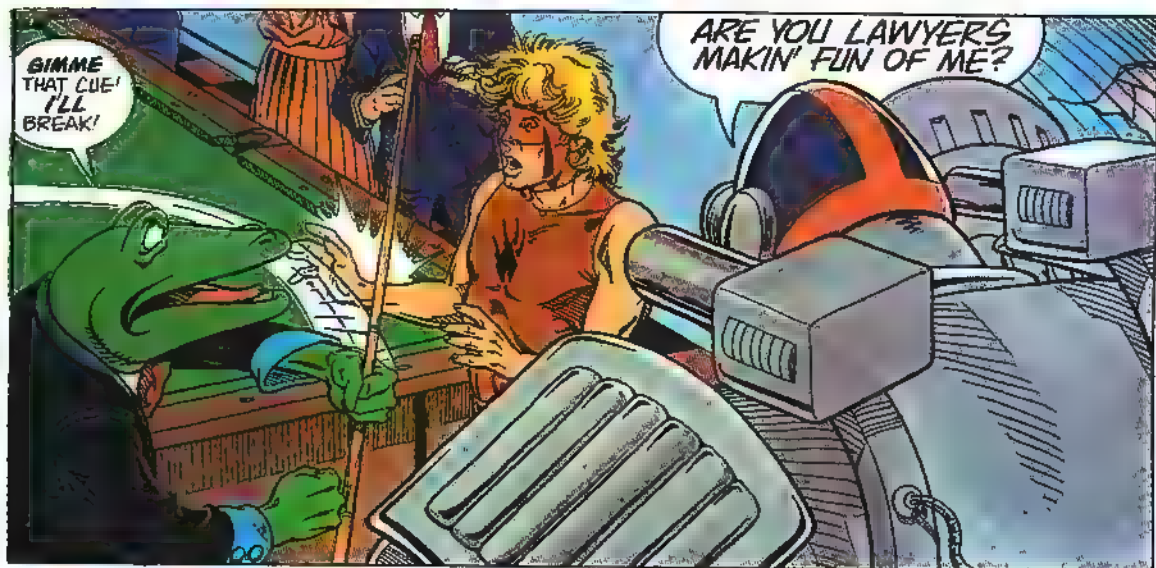


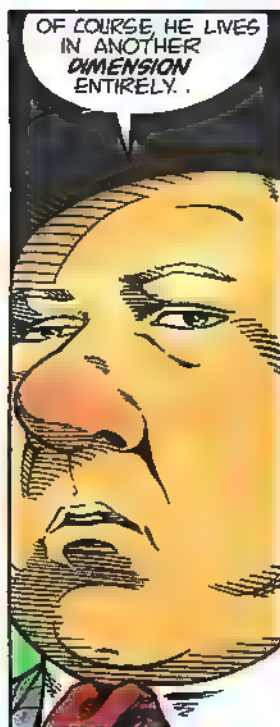
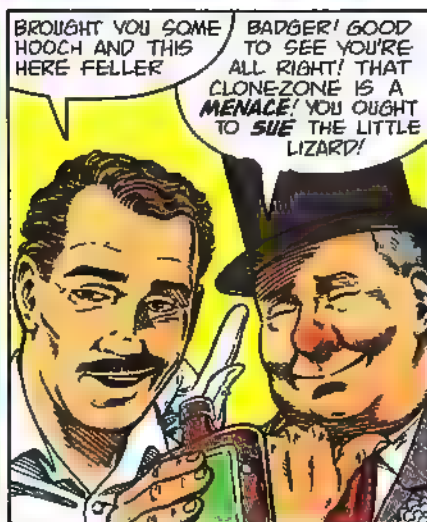
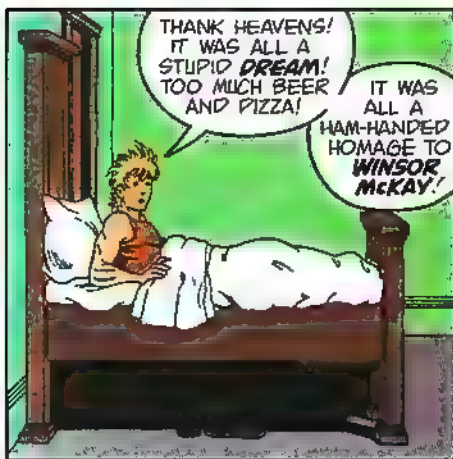






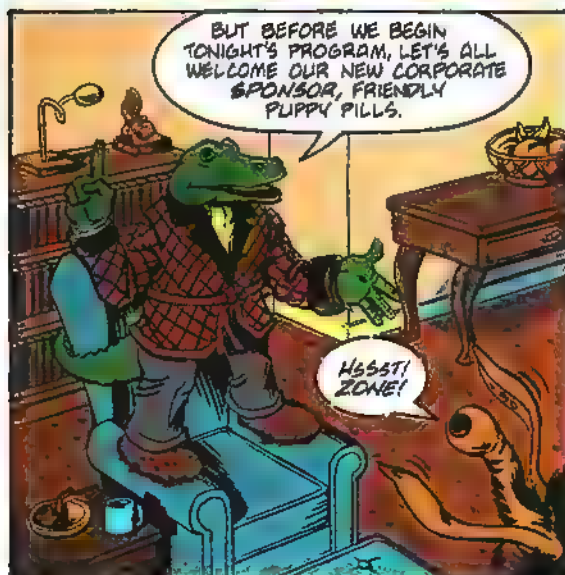


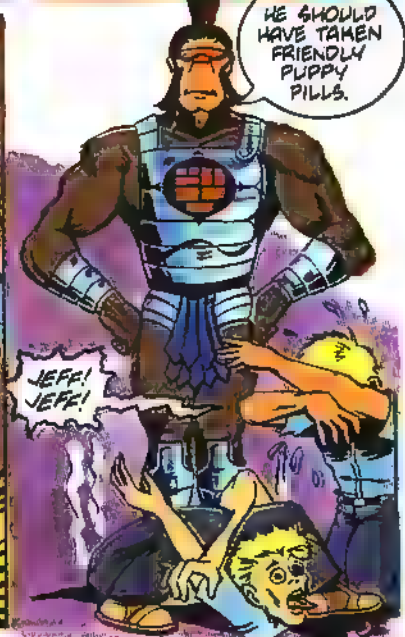
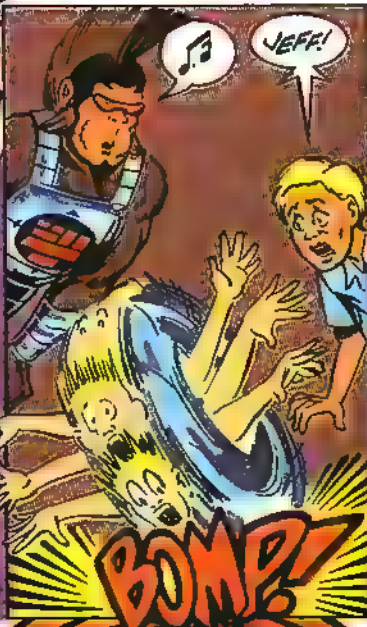
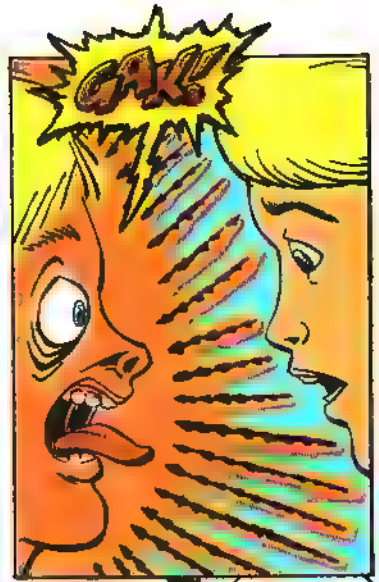


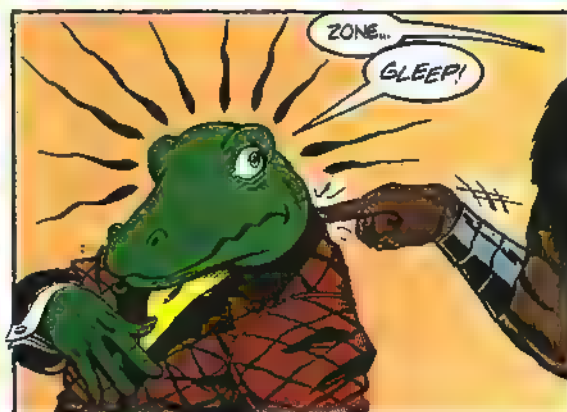
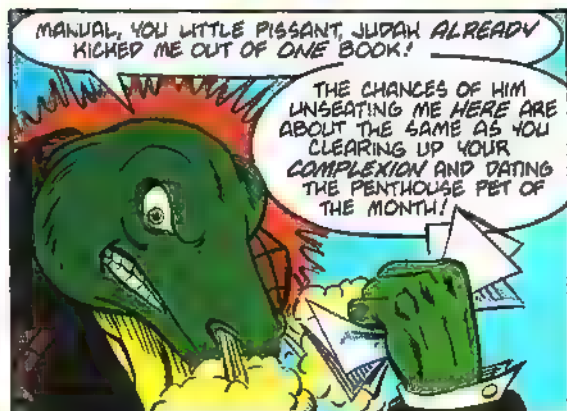
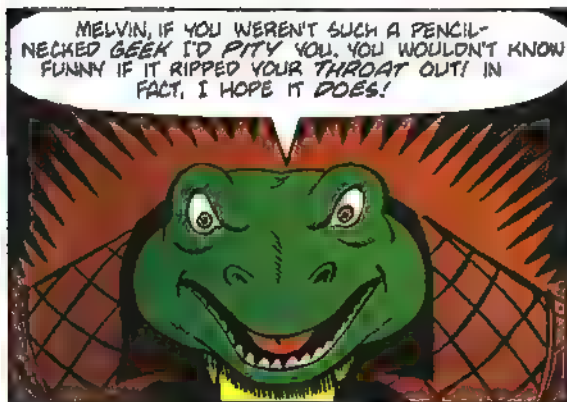


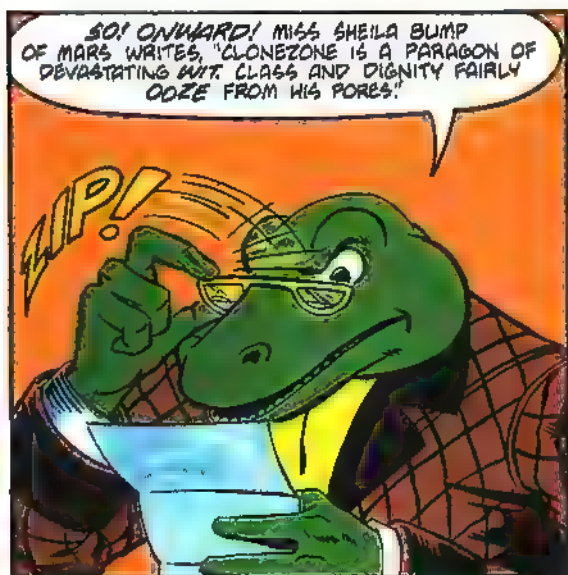


Mike Baron
-story
Chris Ecker
-pencils
Willie Schuybert
-inks/letters
Terry Beaber
-colors
Rick Oliver
-editor

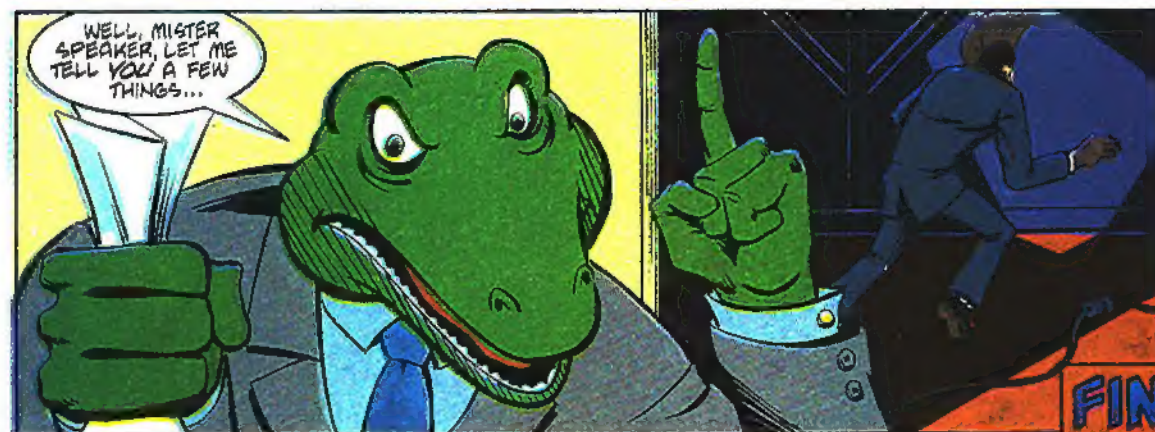
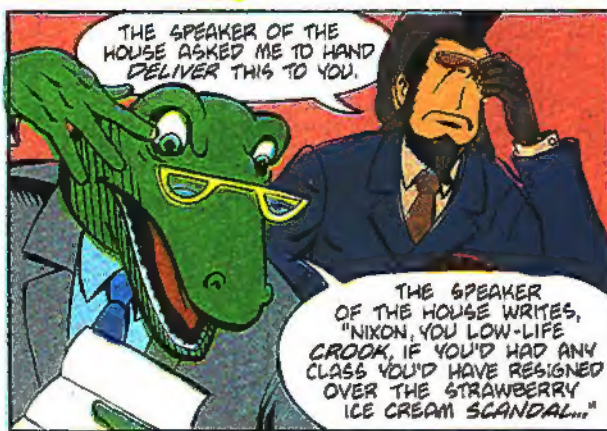
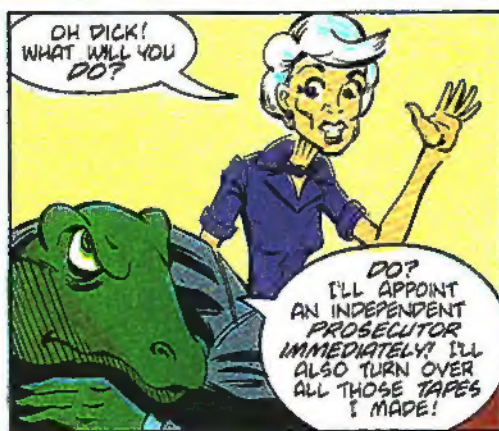
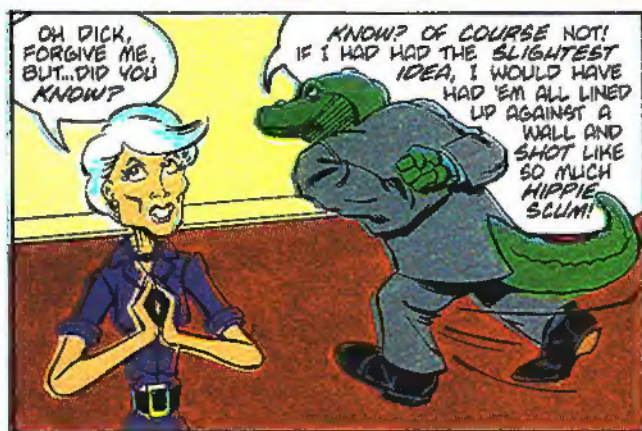












Dear
LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Hi, gang!

I'm sending along the latest *Duckberg Times* comics column, this time, as you can see, on Badger. You'll notice I included a mention of Clonezone at the end. This is to combat the anti-Zone sentiment that seems to be creeping into the letters pages of Badger lately. When he first moved there, all the letters seemed to read, "Alright! Clone-zone's where he belongs." Now it's all, "Boo! Moider the bum!"

Sheesh! Well, I think the strip is funny. Baron's jokes are good and Mark Nelson is a real talent on the art. The "McSleaze" bits alone are worth a hundred of the late, unlamented Bob Violence.

On more general topics, I hadn't realized until I saw the blurb for Sable's fiftieth issue just how long in the tooth First has gotten. Besides Sable, Nexus and American Flagg! are also creeping up on 50, and Grimjack just hit 36 (even though its star didn't quite make it).

Both you and Eclipse have done a lot of excellent, innovative work, but I slightly prefer your slower, more methodical approach to expansion. Not only are you the only independent company to faithfully keep a monthly schedule on most of your books, but I can't think of a single Eclipse series near fifty issues.

My only gripe is that all this makes my job harder in my column. It's bad enough trying to mention the good work being done by some of the fledgling publishers without you guys adding another ace to your hand every three or four months.

Jerome Wilson
22 Woodland Way
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Thanks for all the great press in Duckberg, Jerome — and thanks for your previous rave review of Mike Baron's other creation, Nexus. I'm looking forward to your reviews of Evangeline, Dynamo Joe, and Lone Wolf and Cub.

Dear Mister Oliver-

I think Badger is real good.
(Gudder than most!)
But however Mr. Kinnie misspelt my name in his letter,
P.S. Mr. Kinnie is dead meat.
P.S. Thank-yuu four yer tiim.

Yur Lettererer
Willie Schubert

Sorry about that, Willie. Blame our proofreader, who in this case happens to be me.

Dear Mr. Oliver,

Thank you for a great introduction to First Comics.

Okay, okay, laugh at me. I've been collecting comics for over ten years now, and I've never picked up a First title before, not even when some of your series, such as Nexus and Flagg! have not only garnered critical acclaim but have also been recommended to me by numerous other collectors. The reason why (or, rather, why not) is simple — money. The titles I've collected for years have always dominated my wallet as well as my reading.

This week was a "light" week for me, in which, because of shipping schedules, I was spending somewhat less on comics than I usually do. I decided to try a First comic, having recently become a Mike Baron fan via his work for other companies. Badger seemed like a good place to start.

I was impressed with the first page's introduction to the character and re-cap of the previous story. Looking at some other First titles, this seems to be a company tradition, and one I greatly appreciate. New readers find your characters and series easily accessible, and there is no need for cluttering stories with endless flashbacks, explanations of secret identities, or footnotes.

One of Baron's consistent strengths as a writer is that he generally tells his story from the lead character's point of view and perspective. "The Roach Wrangler" was no exception. Norbert's "multiple personality disorder" flavored the story in an interesting fashion, and Baron manages to tell "social issue" stories that are not overly preachy. I have recently grown weary of comic book fight scenes, but Mike proved here that there's still at least one writer who can write a good one.

This issue not only introduced me to First and to Badger but also to artist Bill Reinhold. As a penciller, Bill excels in that his layouts are interesting and are very dramatic. As an inker, he excels in that his finishes have the beautiful impressionistic quality of Tony DeZuniga's.

I don't have any particular feelings about "Tales from the Clonezone," but maybe I'll develop a taste for this series, too. "Tales" will certainly get a fair chance to "hook" this reader, because I'm adding Badger to my monthly buying list.

Frank Balkin
Filmic Writing Dept.
School of Cinema-Television
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089

No, I won't laugh, Frank. I'll rant and rave instead. We've been working our brains out for five years, and this is the FIRST TIME YOU EVER EVEN LOOKED AT ONE OF OUR BOOKS?!! The only way you can make up for this gross negligence is to go find ten other people who have never even looked at our books and tell them how great **Badger** is. You could also go look at all our other titles you have never even looked at before. Go ahead; it won't hurt. You might even like them.

Dear Mike, Bill, Willie, and Rick,
You'll probably get some letters telling you that **Badger** #26 was one of the most disgusting, sick, perverse, gut-wrenching comics they ever read — all of which is more-or-less true, but I thought you might like to hear it from me rather than have some stranger writing you letters and calling you names and flogging you about the "Roach Wrangler" story. After all, what are friends for?

(By the way, just exactly what are friends for? I know chicken soup is for colds and diamonds are forever, but what are friends for? People have asked me that question all my life and I have no suitable answer. Perhaps your readers might care to comment?)

Anyway...

I enjoyed the roach story because it reminded me of one of my favorite segments of the Stephen King movie: Creep Show. I think roaches are a pretty basic urban nightmare that everyone can relate to. I for one, could tell you roach stories that would put you off your feed for nearly a week!!!!

But I won't.

I was really disappointed by Ivan Stang's somewhat grumpy letter about your "Bob" parody. I thought you acquitted yourself very well and showed a lot more humor than they-who-profess-Genius. Tell Ivan to lighten up.

It also occurs to me at this time, that if Norbert is crazy enough to think he's a superhero it is only a matter of time until he

runs into someone crazy enough to think he's a supervillain. I'd like to see a costumed crazy go after Norbert in a huge, sweeping 15 part continued story that runs for over a year and splashes over into Grimjack and concludes in an issue of *Marvel Fanfare*, only you don't tell anyone where it's going to end so everyone misses that issue, so half the readers never find out how the story ends. I'm sure nothing like that has ever been successfully attempted in comic books before.

T.E. Pouncey

In better comic book stores across this great land of ours.



Dear Sirs,

I've just seen the new film **Lethal Weapon**.

Is there any doubt? Mel Gibson is **The Badger**! I can't wait for the film. How about it?

Bruce Kimble

3362 Latta Road
Rochester, NY 14612

Dear Mike,

Saw **Lethal Weapon** last Friday. Slick film. Good acting. Especially Gibson. If anybody ever decides to make a **Badger** movie, Mel Gibson has to play the title role. Are we agreed?

Loved Norbert's auto alarm in "Roach Wrangler." Doesn't that cargo floor in the 'Vette get a little sticky, though?

Paul Balze

115 Crest Avenue
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

I haven't seen **Lethal Weapon** yet, but Mike has. His response: "Sue the bastards!"

Dear Guys Who Are In Charge of the Creative Element of My Favorite Comic,

Mike Baron will continue to write **Badger**. Although he has started writing about a fast guy in a red suit and a mean guy in a black suit, HE WILL CONTINUE TO WRITE **BADGER**! Understood?

Bill Reinhold will not only continue to pencil **Badger** (and everything else in the panels) but, as of issue #26 he will also ink each and every issue. Failure to comply will be fatal.

Willie, Linda, and Rick (not related) will remain as they are, doing what they do best.

P.S. **Badger Annual** #1 will be out in August.

Scott Paul Maykrantz
1801 Burlington
Midland, MI 48640

No problem, Scott — except for the annual in August. Would you settle for a graphic novel in early 1988 instead?



NEXT MONTH: The first installment of our three-part "Grand Master" epic, which sets the stage for our **Badger Graphic Novel** coming soon to a comics store near you! By Mike Baron and Bill Reinhold, of course.

— Rick Oliver